Dues to be paid by National Textile Corporation

2423. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Textile Corporation is to pay 9.17 crore to the State Government of Maharashtra and the dues have not been paid so far;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof alongwith the reasons for delay in payment; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken by Government to ensure that NTC honours its financial commitments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Slump in Jute Industry

2424. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a slump in demand for jute products specially sackings has effected production in jute mills which may lead to closure of some jute mills;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken by Government to see that these mills are not closed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b) There has been a fall in the production of jute goods due to reduction in demand on account of decline in prices of synthetic substitutes, erosion of erstwhile USSR market etc. However, the demand for jute goods is likely to pick up to meet the requirements of packaging of foodgrains during the ensuring Rabi Season.

(c) Government have provided several incentives to revitalize the jute industry including enactment of Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 creation of Jute Modernisation Fund, establishment of Special Jute Development Fund, grant of fiscal, financial and marketing support etc.

Export of Textile products to USA

2425. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether export of textiles products to the U.S.A. is on the increase;

(b) if so, the details of exports for the last five years alongwith the targets of export fixed for the next five years;

(c) the share of textiles exported from Maharashtra during the said period; and

(d) what fresh measures are being taken or proposed to be taken to boost export of textiles to U.S.A. and other foreign markets to overcome stiff competition.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Total export of Textiles and clothing to the USA (excluding Coir,

Jute and Handicrafts) during the last five years were as shown below:

Year	Value (in Rs. crores)
1987-88 . . .	924.62
1988-89 . . .	1048.87
1989-90 . . .	1336.51
1990-91 . . .	1590.15
1991-92 . . .	2490.44

Country-wise targets for export of Textiles are not fixed.

(c) State-wise export statistics for Textiles are not maintained.

(d) Government have taken several measures to boost export of textiles and clothing which include full convertibility of Rupee, reduction in import duty for capital goods, allowing import of Capital Goods at Concessional duties for export production, making available international quality raw materials under Advance Licence Scheme, participation in Buyer-Seller Meets and Fairs and exhibitions abroad etc.

Poor performance of UNDEP sponsored Jute Development Projects

2426. SHRI SHIVAJIRAO GIRIDHAR PATIL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the UNDP has expressed displeasure with the pace of progress on all accounts of Rs. 30 crores UNDP programme for the development of jute industry; and

(b) if so, what measures have been taken by the Government for development of jute industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Government have taken sexeral measures for the development of the jute industry including inter-alia, creation of a Jute Modernisation Fund to cater to the modernisation reyuirements of the jute industry, creation of a Special Jute Development Fund to rejuvenate the jute economy, enactment of legislation prescribing the mendatory packaging of specified commodities in jute, extension of fiscal, monetory and marketing support, etc.

Textile College at Nalbari in Assam

2427. SHRI ANDRESWAR GOHAIN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present position of the proposed Textile College at Nalbari in Assam; and

(b) whether the classes in the said college have started, if so, the details thereof andn if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY3: (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Convention of Handloom Weavers in Delhi

2428. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister has addressed a convention of handloom weavers in New Delhi recently and assured them to look into their difficulties and problems if so, what are the details of points discussed during the seminar; and

(b) whether his Ministry has drawn any action plan for the welfare of handloom weavers?